

# The Atlantic Slave Trade - Activities for Schools

## Make a Classroom Timeline

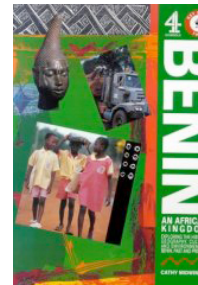
Enlarge the cards below to create a classroom timeline. Pupils could take an event and add illustrations, extended information. Or give pupils information and dates to work in groups and research to match dates to information.

1444	The first public sale of African slaves takes place in Lagos, Portugal.	1787	Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade founded in Britain.
1518	The first direct shipment of slaves from Africa to the Americas take place.	1789	Olaudah Equiano, freed slave, publishes his autobiography.
1562	John Hawkins becomes first English man to trade in slaves.	1807	Abolition of the Slave Trade Act passed in Britain.
1619	Dutch traders start to convey slaves from Africa to America.	Post - 1807	Britain campaigns for other countries to ban slave trade.
1630's	British interest in slave trade grows: plantations established in Americas.	1823	Anti-Slavery Committee formed to campaign for total abolition of slavery.
1660	Royal Adventurers into Africa, British company founded.	1833	Abolition of Slavery Act, emancipation of slaves in British West Indies.
1672	Royal African Company founded: By 1665 earned £100,000 in slave trade.	1839	Amistad rebellion aboard ship off Cuba - slaves got freedom in America.
1700's	Britain becomes the dominant slave trading nation.	1834	British law passed declaring ownership of slaves illegal.
1780's	Trade Peak. Ship leaves Britain every 2 days. Half slaves die in transit.	1848-1888	Slavery abolished by France, USA, Portugal, Netherlands, Brazil, Cuba.

## Study Benin (KS2 History Topic)

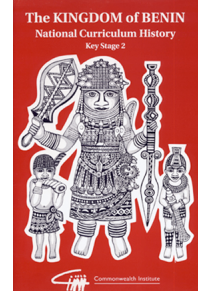
Benin is one of the KS2 History topic options. Why not include this in your curriculum for 2007? There are numerous resources available, and opportunities for cross-curricular work – for example African Art, links with the Tudors, biographical writing (Equiano Oludah), Jamaica (KS2 geography) - and many more!

### Resources



**Benin an African Kingdom**  
Cathy Midwinter WWF & 4 Schools  
ISBN 1-85850-006-0

Book & photo-pack – An excellent resource with detailed lesson plans & super illustrations to stimulate discussion.



**The Kingdom of Benin**  
Commonwealth Institute  
ISBN 0 946140 553

Excellent background information on Benin, resources, lesson plans, posters, and worksheets.

### British Museum Website



[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/education/resources/resources2.html](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/education/resources/resources2.html)

Download the following booklets from the British Museum website:

- Benin Art
- Benin Gallery Activities
- Benin Teacher Resources

These include clearly presented information about all aspects of Benin and a complete Scheme of Work. Even without visiting the museum, some of the gallery activities can be used by viewing objects on the Museum website: see 'Children's Compass': Africa Tour, and 'Compass': Benin Bronzes Tour.

### Homebeats: Struggles for Racial Justice CDROM

Available from [www.irr.org.uk/publication/cdrom](http://www.irr.org.uk/publication/cdrom) An excellent resource for use by pupils at KS2 and KS3. It is easily navigable, and has clearly presented information: timelines, biographies, and topics, including the Slave Trade.

## Try a Webquest

Webquests are a good way of improving students internet research skills through directed activities. Here are some to try:

**Underground Railroad Webquest**  
<http://www.hobart.k12.in.us/suzquest/main.html>

**Slave Trade Triangle**  
<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/plegal/tips/t5prod/cohenwq1.html>

**Oludah Equiano**  
[www.webquests.comptonhistory.com/Equiano%20webquest.htm](http://www.webquests.comptonhistory.com/Equiano%20webquest.htm)

**The Middle Passage: Journal Writing**  
<http://eprintice.sdsu.edu/J03CW/wardwell/webquest.html>

## Create a Virtual Exhibition!



[www.nmm.ac.uk/freedom](http://www.nmm.ac.uk/freedom)

**Freedom** – A KS3 History Resource about Britain and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (National Maritime Museum)

This is an **excellent** website, with clearly presented and illustrated material.

Students can explore a database of objects to investigate the historical evidence, through 5 key themes:

Triangular Trade, Oppression and Survival, Resistance, Abolition, and Impact.

They then choose 5 objects, pertinent to their chosen theme or emotion, and write museum labels and commentary to create an on-line exhibition that explains and illustrates their personal understanding.

**A website well worth investigating!**